

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 04616 01 OF 02 301021Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 IGA-02 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 MC-02
DHA-02 EB-08 NEA-10 /094 W
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R 291417Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5037
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 4616

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MASS, US, SO
SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN REACTION TO US ARMS DECISION FOR SOMALIA

SUMMARY: TODAY WAS U.S. EDITORIAL DAY IN ETHIOPIAN HERALD. CARTOON, EDITORIAL AND FEATURE ARTICLE ARE ALL SHARPLY CRITICAL OF US DECISION TO PROVIDE ARMS TO SOMALIA, WHICH IS VARIOUSLY DESCRIBED AS INTENDED TO ARREST TIDE OF REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT, INTENSIFY REACTIONARY ENCIRCLEMENT OF ETHIOPIA, AND TURN HORN OF AFRICA INTO BATTLEGROUND. PRESIDENT CARTER IS ACCUSED OF "BETRAYING PRINCIPLES ON ALTER OF EXPEDIENCIES," WHEREAS SIAD BARRE REGIME ALLEGED TO HAVE THROWN OFF MASK OF SOCIALISM AND JOINED IMPERIALIST BANDWAGON. END SUMMARY.

1. EDITORIAL PAGE IN JULY 29 ETHIOPIAN HERALD FEATURES LARGE CARTOON SHOWING SIAD BARRE PRAYING ON HIS PRAYER RUG WITH FIVE STARS OF GREATER SOMALIA ON FLAG IN BACKGROUND. ANGELIC PRESIDENT CARTER DESCENDING FROM SKY BEARING US POLICY RECOMMENDATION ON ARMS TO SOMALIA AND SAYING, "DON'T WORRY, BARRE* YOUR PRAYER INSTANTLY BEING ANSWERED BY OUR AGENTS, CIA, NIMEIRI, KHALED, ETC."
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 04616 01 OF 02 301021Z

2. EDITORIAL ENTITLED "BANKRUPTCY OF US POLICY" PICKS UP SAME THEME, PARAPHRASED AS FOLLOWS:

A. QUOTE IN JIMMY CARTER'S ABSURD WORLD, THERE IS NO MORATORIUM ON BETRAYING PRINCIPLES ON ALTER OF EXPEDIENCIES. THERE IS ABSOLUTE DISREGARD FOR HIGH

IDEALS AND PERSISTENT DESIRE TO FLIRT WITH WHATEVER GENERATES PROFITS OR PROMISES TO YIELD SOME QUICKLY. STRESS IS ON PROMOTION OF SELF-SERVING PROJECTS THAT THRIVE ON DEMISE OF OTHERS.

B. QUOTE PRESENT ESCALATION OF WASHINGTON PROMISES OF ARMS SALES TO SEVERAL COUNTRIES IN MIDDLE EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA PROMPTED MORE BY MERCANTILE CONSIDERATIONS THAN REGARD FOR MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND TRANQUILITY. THIS BIZARRE APPROACH TO CONDUCT OF FOREIGN POLICY ONCE BEFORE BROUGHT US TO BRINK OF DISASTER. FORESEEABLE IN PRESENT CASE THAT AMERICA AGAIN BEING DRAWN INTO QUAGMIRE, FROM WHICH IT DIFFICULT TO PULL OUT WITHOUT EXPERIENCING ANOTHER DEFEAT.

C. QUOTE AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY MAKERS ONCE THOUGHT THAT WHITE HOUSE SHOULD DECIDE DESTINY OF OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF WORLD. BUT HUMILIATING SETBACKS SUFFERED BY IMPERIALISM AT HANDS OF REVOLUTIONARY PEOPLES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA TRANSFORMED BALANCE OF FORCES IN INTERNATIONAL ARENA TO FAVOR OPPRESSED MASSES STRUGGLING FOR GENUINE EMANCIPATION. THERE HAS SINCE BEEN GROWING CHORUS OF OPINION TO DISLODGE US FROM PRIVILEGED POSITION IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND TO REESTABLISH UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS IN WAY THAT REFLECTED PREVAILING OBJECTIVE INTERNATIONAL OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ADDIS 04616 01 OF 02 301021Z

TIONAL REALITIES. AS CONSEQUENCE, AMERICA'S INFLUENCE HAS REACHED LOW EBB, AND ITS IMAGE HAS BEEN IRREDEEMABLY TARNISHED.

D. QUOTE ACCESSION OF JIMMY CARTER TO POWER AND HIS FRANTIC ATTEMPT TO PLAY "PEANUT BUSINESS" WITH FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS CHANGED NOTHING SUBSTANTIAL. SO FAR, JIMMY CARTER HAS DONE LITTLE THAT IS CONSTRUCTIVE TO HIS COUNTRY OR TO CAUSE OF MANKIND. IF ANYTHING, HE HAS CONFIRMED ANTI-POPULAR, ANTI-OPPRESSED PEOPLES, AND ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY CONVICTIONS OF HIS SOUTHERN BACKGROUND. HIS CONCEPTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND HIS USE OF THIS ISSUE TO FISH IN TROUBLED WATERS WAS RECEIVED WITH HOSTILITY ALMOST EVERYWHERE IN THIRD WORLD, FORCING HIM TO BEAT HASTY RETREAT AND FORMULATE NEW STRATEGY.

E. QUOTE CARTER' NEW POLICY ENTAILS DELIVERY OF SOPHISTICATED WEAPONRY TO REACTIONARY RULING CLIQUES AND TRYING BY WORKING WITH THEM TO ARREST TIDE OF REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS. THOUGH METHOD IS AS OLD AS US IMPERIALISM, NEW COLORATION IS CRUSADING ZEAL OF

CARTER ADMINISTRATION, LEAVING NO STONE UNTURNED TO
UNDERMINE AND TOPPLE PROGRESSIVE GOVERNMENTS THROUGH-
OUT WORLD.

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 04616 02 OF 02 301012Z
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F. QUOTE ANNOUNCEMENT OF US DECISION TO SELL ARMS
TO SOMALIA, SUDAN, EGYPT, AND SAUDI ARABIA THEREFORE
STRIKES CONCERTED IMPERIALIST CHORD TO ENCIRCLE
REVOLUTIONARY ETHIOPIA, EXTINGUISH FLAMES OF REVOLU-
TIONARY STRUGGLE OF ITS OPPRESSED PEOPLE, AND REIN-
STATE FEUDO-BOURGEOIS ORDER, DANCING TO TUNE OF
AMERICAN IMPERIALISM. RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN WASHING-
TON AND MOGADISCIO ALSO REVEALS THAT REACTIONARY
SIAD BARRE HAS THROWN OFF MASK OF SOCIALISM AND JOINED
BANDWAGON OF IMPERIALISM.

G. QUOTE GIVEN PROGRESSIVE REVOLUTIONARY GAINS OF
OPPRESSED ETHIOPIAN MASSES AND THEIR UNBRIDLED DE-
TERMINATION TO SAFEGUARD THEIR HARD FOUGHT ACHIEVE-
MENTS, US IMPERIALISM AND ARAB REACTION WILL BE DEALT
CRUSHING BLOW. MASSES WILL CONTINUE TO MARCH FROM
ONE VICTORY TO ANOTHER AND EVENTUALLY ESTABLISH
PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA. UNQUOTE.

3. FEATURE ARTICLE ON US IMPERIALISM SAME PAGE IS
CAST IN MORE GENERAL TERMS, BUT CHARACTERIZES US
DECISION AS CLEAR MANIFESTATION THAT CARTER ADMINIS-
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 04616 02 OF 02 301012Z

TRATION HAS VOWED TO TURN HORN INTO BATTLEGROUND.
IT CLAIMS STATE DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE BEEN FORCED TO
MAKE MATTER PUBLIC, SINCE SOME SOPHISTICATED ARMS
SUPPLIED BY US HAVE BEEN CAPTURED BY ETHIOPIAN FORCES
IN OGADEN. NEW ADMINISTRATION ALLEGED TO HAVE RE-
JECTED EARLIER EPMG REQUEST FOR \$100 MILLION WORTH
OF ARMS BY SIMPLY CANCELING AGREEMENT TO THIS
EFFECT, WITH OBJECT OF PARALYZING ETHIOPIA MILITARILY
AND "SATISFYING HUMAN RIGHTS CHAMPION JIMMY CARTER,
FORMER PEANUT FARMER FROM SOUTH, WHERE HUMAN RIGHTS
RECEIVE LITTLE OR NO ATTENTION AT ALL." US ALSO
CONSIDERING SALE OF 60 F-15'S TO SAUDI ARABIA, WHICH
MAY BE USED TO BRING ABOUT FURTHER DETERIORATION TO
UNSTABLE SITUATION IN HORN OF AFRICA.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Executive Order: N/A
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TAGS: MASS, SOPN, US, SO
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